

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). An ultrasound applicator for applying ultrasound energy to the thoracic cavity of an individual, said ultrasound applicator comprising

a housing sized and configured for placement during use on a chest or near a sternum, the housing having inferior and superior edge portions and lateral side portions,

an ultrasound transducer carried within the housing to transcutaneously apply ultrasound energy to the thoracic cavity, the ultrasound transducer being sized to provide a power density not exceeding 3 watts/cm² at a maximum total power output of no greater than 200 watts operating at a fundamental therapeutic frequency not exceeding 500 kHz, whereby the application of ultrasound energy increases the blood flow of the individual; and

a strap assembly affixed to interior inferior and/or superior edge portions of the housing to stabilize the housing during application of ultrasound energy, the strap assembly being substantially free of components affixed to the lateral side portions of the housing, to leave the chest of the individual on the lateral side portions of the housing substantially uncovered and bare to allow not impede placement of another treatment device on bare skin alongside the housing during use.

2 (Previously Presented). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the strap assembly includes a quick release mechanism.

3 (Previously Presented). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the strap assembly includes a quick release material.

4 (Previously Presented). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the strap assembly includes a sling.

5 (Previously Presented). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the strap assembly includes a halter.

6 (Canceled).

7 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a chamber to hold fluid about the ultrasound transducer.

8 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the housing accommodates circulation of fluid about the ultrasound transducer.

9 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes an ultrasound conducting interface.

10 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a contour-conforming interface with skin.

11 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a skirt that spaces the ultrasound transducer from contact with skin.

12 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes an ultrasound-conducting membrane for contacting skin.

13 (Previously Presented). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing is elongated shape ~~between the inferior and superior portions~~
between the inferior and superior portions.

14 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a coupling assembly to releasably couple the ultrasound transducer to an external electric signal generating machine.

15 (Previously presented). An applicator according to claim 14
wherein the assembly includes a quick coupling mechanism.

16 (Previously Presented. A method comprising
providing an ultrasound applicator as defined in claim 1,
stabilizing the housing for use comprising using the strap assembly,
applying ultrasound energy, and
placing another treatment device alongside the housing during use.